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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 57 of the First Extraordinary Session  
By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION to honor University of Tennessee offensive  
lineman, Mercedes Hamilton.

WHEREAS, rarely in the annals of college football history has a team achieved as much success as has the 1998 University of Tennessee Volunteers; and

WHEREAS, a key factor in the tremendous success of the Volunteers this season was offensive lineman Mercedes Hamilton, a young man who will be remembered fondly by the Vol faithful forever, as a great player, a team leader and a model citizen; and

WHEREAS, rated as one of the nation's best defensive ends when he graduated from Burke County High School in Waynesboro, Georgia, Mercedes was also named to the *BlueChip Illustrated* Dream Team and the *Parade* All-America team; and

WHEREAS, after being redshirted during his freshman year, Mercedes played on special teams during the 1995 season, and was a reserve at defensive tackle; and

WHEREAS, in 1996 he moved from defense to offense, making the transition in fine fashion and emerging as a starter at right guard for the final four games which included a win over Kentucky in which the Vols amassed 638 yards, the second best total in school history; and

WHEREAS, as a junior, Mercedes started every game at right guard during a banner season for the Georgian; his disciplined blocking technique helped protect Peyton Manning and

paved the way for the emergence of tailback Jamal Lewis as a star running back, as the Vols captured the Southeastern Conference Championship with a win over Auburn; and

WHEREAS, valued for his experience and savvy, Mercedes was a model of consistency for his younger teammates in 1998 as the Vols rolled to a 13-0 season and were crowned National Champions by virtue of their win over Florida State University in the Fiesta Bowl; and

WHEREAS, widely respected and admired by his coaches and teammates, Mercedes served with distinction as a 1998 team captain for the National Champion Volunteers; and

WHEREAS, Mercedes Hamilton has excelled on the gridiron and has served as a role model who the young people of our society would do well to emulate; he is truly a champion in the hearts of Big Orange Faithful and it is fitting that he be specially recognized, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Mercedes Hamilton on his numerous accomplishments and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.